

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION

Thursday, September 5. 1706.

I Observ'd in my last, how *Europe* is apprehensive of new Conflagrations, and the Judgments of Heaven, for without doubt War is a Judgment, seem rather to threaten her with Encrease, than any Deliverance.

I cannot but spare a few Thoughts upon this Head; The *Swede*, we are told, unable to reduce by Force that vigilant and indefatigable Prince the King of *Poland*, are at last resolv'd to enter *Saxony*; and rather than not compass their ambitious Ends, for I can call it no better, will now lay waste a flourishing and populous, as well as Protestant Country.

'Tis hard; the separate Interests of Nations are such, that the Considerations of Religion, and the Injury to, and weakening of its Interest in the World have no Weight, when the Feuds of War prompt

Men of Power to pursue their Advantages.

Hitherto, I doubt the strong Mediation both of *England* and *Holland*, with the King of *Sweden*, has not been able to prevail with him to set Bounds to his Proceedings; and as the Case has been remote, they have us'd no other Methods with him, tho' his carrying on his *Polish* War, I believe, has in itself been many ways very much to the Prejudice of the Confederacy now on Foot.

Whether they will stand still, and see the *Swede* advance to the Heart of *Germany*, see them reduce the most flourishing Electorate of *Saxony*, and put themselves thereby into a Posture to turn the Scale of *Europe*, when they please, I cannot determine; If I might be allow'd to speak my Thoughts, I cannot think it can be safe for any Part of the Confederates.

The

The King of *Prussia* would see himself surrounded, the *Dane* would find himself concern'd, the whole Circle of the *Lower Saxony* would have reason to dread the Neighbourhood of the *Swedes*, the Landgrave of *Hesse-Cassel* cannot be easie, the Princes of *Lunenburg* are particularly concern'd to extinguish a Flame, which if it burns on, must endanger their Frontiers, and embroil them with a Neighbour too potent to quarrel with.

I will not say the *Swedes* are Confederate with *France* in this, but I may say, he cannot serve the *French* Interest more; for if he is embroil'd with the Northern Princes, the Troops of those Princes must necessarily be recall'd out of the Confederate Service to defend their Neighbours.

Had the *English* and *Dutch* thought fit to have abandon'd this young Heroe at his first Entrance upon the Stage of Honour, he had been crush'd in his Beginning, and the *Pole* and the *Dane* in Conjunction had crippled his Power——And had not Her Majesty laid Her Hand upon this Affair, and sometime since prevented some Neighbouring Powers falling upon him, he had before now been call'd off to other Work than invading his Neighbours. Whether his Requital be suitable to the Treatment he has met with from *England*, I will not conclude; but I think, I may say without Vanity, it has always been in Her Majesty's Power to let that Prince know, That Her Friendship was of too great Value to be neglected.

I know, it has been alledg'd that the *Swedes* fought the Cause of God, and punish'd the Apostacy and Injustice of the *Polish* King, and that they were Defenders of the Protestant Religion, and would establish it in *Poland*.

I refer such Advocates for this Cause to the Treaty concluded between the *Swedes*, and their new King *Stanislaus*; wherein, if we have the Conditions right, we find the Protestants wholly abandon'd, and given up, and not the least Article relating to Religion entred upon in that Treaty.

But, pray, Gentlemen, What Part of the Cause of God, what Care of the Protestant Interest can carry them into *Saxony*? Will they plant the Protestant Religion in *Saxony*?

Will they pull down Antichrist and Idolatry there? Have the *Saxons* chang'd their Religion? Are they not already zealous Protestants? Was it not the first Country in that Part of the World that embrac'd this Reformation? Was not their Prince the first that shelter'd *Luther*, and defended him against the Cruelty and Persecution of the *Roman* Clergy?

Again; Was not the Elector of *Saxony*, the first Founder of the famous League that restord *Germany* to her Liberty, and secur'd all the Protestant Powers under the Conduct of *Gustavus Adolphus*?—— That joyn'd his Army, and fought the terrible Battle of *Leipsick* never match'd yet, either for its Fury in Fight, Compleatness of Victory, and prodigious Consequences, no not by *Blenheim* or *Ramellies*?

These are the People, and this the Country, we are told, the *Swedes* are now going to fall upon; presuming, I suppose, that the Princes of *Europe* cannot spare time nor Hands to relieve them, in which I doubt not but they will be mistaken; and tho' it will be a War we shall be very sorry to see begun, wherein Protestants shall draw their victorious Swords one against another, and thereby give Breath to the great Enemy, whom now they have at an Advantage: Yet the Fault, and I hope the Punishment must lie on the Aggressor; I do not direct, nor suggest any thing, but this I hope will be allow'd me; that if the *Swede* shall attempt to invade the Electorate of *Saxony*, I hope, all the Protestant Powers of *Europe* will be mov'd to take that People to their Protection, and prevent not only their Destruction, but to keep any Power from a Capacity of giving a new Turn to the present Affairs of *Europe*.

The *Swedes* are at present Remote, and if the *French* and they were both united, I see no great Harm they could do us more than by a Diversion, which indeed they have done already: But if the *Swedes* reduce *Poland*, and get Possession of *Saxony*, I do not say, they will do it; but they will be both near enough and strong enough to tell you, when you have beaten the *French* enough, and when you shall beat them no more.

It will be in their Power to keep employ'd the Kings of *Prussia* and *Denmark*, with the Princes of *Lunenburg* and *Saxony*, that you shall have no Help from them; The Emperor, the Landgrave of *Hesse*, and the Elector Palatine may be calling out to you for Help, and whenever they please, they shall reinstate the Elector of *Bavaria*.

What if the Security were ten times greater than it is, that they will not attempt it, that they will not come into the *French* Interests or *French* Councils; I appeal to all the wise Statesmen of this Age, whether it can be Prudence in the Powers concern'd to let it come into any Man's Power to do it, if he will?

What occasion has *Europe* to lie so much at any Princes Mercy? What reason to permit any Prince to be able to say, he could do so and so? Shall the Safety of *Europe*, and the Success of the present War be put to a Hazard, when there is no need for it? Shall we trust the Ambition of the best Prince in the World with such an Opportunity? I hope, I have no reason to fear they will do so; and certainly if the *Swedes* make such an Attempt, they must either be infatuated, or believe all the Protestant Powers of *Europe* are unable to restrain them, or asleep and careless of their Affairs.

But after all we are told, and some of our News Writers are forward to make the Distinction, *Viz.* That this Invasion is not by the *Swedes*, but by King *Stanislaus* and Prince *Sobieski* — Now, as I am not at all concern'd to inquire, whether this be a real or Political Distinction; so I shall not trouble the Reader to expose so barefac'd a Suggestion, or to examine, what Condition King *Stanislaus* or the Prince *Sobieski* are in to invade *Saxony*, if the *Swedes* either did not assist them, or support them, or march under them?

Let therefore the Invasion be attempted by who it will, I do not say, the *Swedes* are the Actors of it; but this I may venture to say, 'twill be a hard Task to make the World believe 'tis an Invasion of any body else; and the attempting to cover it, seems doing a Dishonour to the *Swedes*, as if they were going about something they were ashamed to own.

I cannot persuade my self, but the King of *Sweden* will be well advis'd, before he attempts such a thing, and doubtless will listen to the powerful Remonstrances of the rest of the Protestant Powers of *Europe*, and consider the dreadful Conflagration that must follow such a new Breach; for without doubt it must be a Breach, and if I am not more Phlegmatick than I should be, it will have such Effects, if it happens at this Juncture, as will give a new Face to the Affairs of *Europe*.

I confess, I see nothing but the Interposition of some remote Accident, such as this, or such as the *Hungarians* proving victorious, or such as the taking *Turin*, that can retrieve the *French* Affairs; and I should be very sorry to have any occasion to lament, that Protestant Powers should save Popish Tyranny from a Fall so remarkable, as what seems now inevitable.

It has often been remark'd in History, and not without just Regret; that the Dissension and private Jars of the Christian Princes open'd the Door to the Greatness of *Mahometan* Power, and let the *Turks* into *Europe*; if that be true, how many flourishing Nations has that unhappy Mischief destroy'd, and how are their Posterity embrac'd in the Arms of Heathenism and Barbarity, a Consideration worth the Notice of the Protestant Princes of *Europe*; whose Power, as establish'd by the Conquests of their Glorious Monarchs, *Gustavus Adolphus*, King *William* and Queen *Anne*, can never be destroy'd, but by their Want of Union and Understanding one among another?

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